

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MADRID 04204 311853Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 TRSE-00 SY-05
MCT-01 IO-13 COME-00 /086 W
-----311856Z 009130 /44

P R 311718Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 504
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION NATO
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 4204

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PINT SP
SUBJECT: BASQUE TERRORISM/POSSIBLE RELEASE OF PRISONERS

REF: MADRID 3986

JAVIER DE YBARRA (REFTEL) HAS BEEN PERMITTED BY HIS STILL
UNIDENTIFIED CAPTORS TO WRITE HIS FAMILY. DATED MAY 28, THE
BRIEF NOTE APPARENTLY DID NOT MAKE ANY POLITICAL OR FINANCIAL
DEMANDS FOR HIS RELEASE AND MERELY INDICATED HE WAS ALIVE AND
WELL ON THAT DATE.

2. OVER THE WEEKEND, LEADERS OF THE ETA POLITICAL/MILITARY
FACTION RELEASED A COMMUNIQUE CALLING FOR A RETURN TO ARMED
STRUGGLE AND ABSTENTION FROM THE UPCOMING ELECTIONS. THEY
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IDENTIFIED THE "COMMANDOS" ARRESTED IN SAN SEBASTIN MAY
27 WHILE ATTEMPTING TO BLOW UP A CIVIL GUARD BUS) AS
BELONGING TO THEIR ORGANIZATION. (COMMENT - THIS ASSERTION
MAY REPRESENT AN ATTEMPT TO REBUILD REVOLUTIONARY CREDIBILITY
WITHIN THE ETA MOVEMENT. SEE MADRID 4079).

3. HOWEVER, IN THE SAME STATEMENT THE ETA P/M LEADERS

OBSERVED THAT, IF RADICAL BASQUE NATIONALIST ("ABERTZALE") GROUPS SHOULD DECIDE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ELECTIONS, AFTER THE RELEASE OF ALL REMAINING BASQUE PRISONERS, ETA P/M WOULD NOT OBSTRUCT THAT DECISION WITH A MILITARY CAMPAIGN.

4. THE PARTIDO PARA LA REVOLUCION ASCA (EIA), ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT "ABERTZALE" GROUPS", ANNOUNCED OVER THE WEEKEND THAT IT WOULD DEFINITELY PARTICIPATE IN THE ELECTIONS, ON THE SOLE CONDITION OF A TOTAL AMNESTY FOR THE BASQUE PRISONERS.

5. INDEPENDENT MADRID DAILY EL PAIS REPORTED TODAY THAT JUAN MARIA BANDRES (LAWYER TO MANY BASQUE PRISONERS AND FURTHER IDENTIFIED AS THE GOVT'S INTERMEDIARY WITH THE PRISONERS) EXPECTS ALL BASQUE PRISONERS TO BE RELEASED JUNE

2. ZTHAT ..." HE WAS QUOTED AS SAYING, "...IS THE PROMISE (THE GOVT) HAS MADE US."

6. AT A LUNCHEON MEETING OF MID-LEVEL OFFICERS OF VARIOUS EMBASSIES, THE SWISS AND THE FINN BOTH REPORTED THAT THEIR GOVTS HAVE YET TO REPLY TO GOS REQUESTS THAT THEY AGREE TO ACCEPT SOME BASQUE PRISONERS, AND THE NORWEGIAN SAID IN CONFIDENCE THAT NORWAY HAD AGREED TO TAKE FIVE "ON THE SAME CONDITIONS AS BELGIUM HAD" CONDITIONS WHICH HE SAID INCLUDED THE STIPULATION THAT THE EXILES BE ALLOWED BACK IN SPAIN AFTER THE JUNE ELECTIONS SINCE THE GON HAD NO LEGAL MEANS OF HOLDING THEM WITHIN NORWAY. THE FINN ALSO SAID HE HAD HEARD THAT CUBA HAD DELICATELY CONFIDENTIAL

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BEEN ASKED WHAT ITS RESPONSE WOULD BE IF IT WERE PRESENTED WITH A FORMAL REQUEST, AND THAT IT HAD TURNED THE FEELER DOWN. SEVERAL OF THOSE PRESENT WONDERED HOW THE SPANISH MILITARY WOULD REACT TO SO EARLY A RETURN OF THESE BASQUES, CONVICTED AS THEY WERE OF BLOOD CRIMES. STABLER

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